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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS:
PROCLAMATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS

Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica*, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Guyana, Kenya*, Kyrgyzstan*, Nicaragua, Paraguay*, Philippines, Swaziland*, United States of America and Uruguay*: draft resolution

The year 2000: International Year of Thanksgiving

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the dedication of a year to the act of giving thanks gives us the opportunity to remember the fundamental importance of cultural diversity in the development of a rich and harmonious International life and that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as expressed in its Charter, is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems in economic, social, cultural and humanitarian areas without creating any distinctions for reasons of race, sex, language or religion,

Aware that the observance of the year 2000 as International Year of Thanksgiving within the United Nations will bring together the efforts of nations to achieve full tolerance and strengthen universal peace,

Mindful that the Charter of the United Nations states in its preamble that the practice of tolerance is one of the principles that need to be applied to prevent war and maintain peace,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Affirming that this initiative will contribute to international cooperation by creating an awareness among peoples and Governments of the importance of gratitude as much in the personal and civic life of every human being as in the relations between countries and cultures of the world,

Also affirming that the proposal to begin the twenty-first century and the new millennium with the International Year of Thanksgiving to celebrate the gift of life as the most noble expression of the human spirit is intended to promote friendship and solidarity between nations,

1. Reaffirms that the expression of gratitude will bring together national and international efforts to achieve full tolerance and strengthen universal peace and international cooperation;

2. Invites all Member States and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to do whatever they can in their respective areas of expertise to contribute to the preparation and publicizing of the Year;

3. Recommends that the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, proclaim the Year 2000 as the International Year of Thanksgiving.

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS/ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Japan, Luxembourg* and South Africa: draft resolution

Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1994/24 of 26 July 1994, 1995/2 of 3 July 1995 and 1996/47 of 26 July 1996,

Noting with concern the continuing spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), particularly HIV/AIDS-associated deaths in 1996, which represent about 25 per cent of all HIV-related mortality since the beginning of the epidemic, the severe impact on development prospects and the worsening impact on individuals, households and society,

Recognizing that women and men are affected differently and that, in 1996, nearly half of the new infections occurred in women,

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* On behalf of States Member of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.

Noting also with concern the increasingly dramatic situation of millions of children worldwide who are living under threat of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and welcoming the theme of the 1997 World AIDS Campaign on Children Living in a World with AIDS,

Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the activities of the Joint and Co-Sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and its co-sponsoring organizations during the first full year of operations of the Programme, and acknowledging the continued efforts made by Governments in response to HIV/AIDS at the national level as well as the financial support provided by countries to these efforts,

Noting that the Programme, which was established to provide a coordinated United Nations response to the epidemic, constitutes an important example in the current United Nations reform efforts,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the Programme, [1] which discusses the HIV/AIDS activities of the organizations of the United Nations system, and welcoming the increased involvement of the Secretary-General in the response to HIV/AIDS and his support to the Programme,

1. Urges the co-sponsors and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen their commitment to the response to the epidemic by integrating HIV/AIDS components throughout their operational activities at global, regional and country levels and in their follow-up activities to global conferences;

2. Requests co-sponsoring organizations and the Programme to disseminate clear guidance to country-level staff on the role and functions of the United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS and their respective roles in providing technical assistance, and to report back to their respective governing bodies and to the Programme Coordinating Board on measures undertaken in this respect;

3. Requests the United Nations funds and programmes and invites the specialized agencies to ensure effective coordination of HIV/AIDS-related activities in the context of the resident coordinator system;

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[1] E/1997/63.

4. Urges the co-sponsoring organizations to share costs related to administrative support for the effective functioning of theme groups within the framework of the United Nations resident coordinator system;

5. Appeals to Governments and the co-sponsors, and encourages other interested actors, to broaden their programme activities in the area of HIV/AIDS in order to cover all aspects of the epidemic, in particular addressing its social and economic dimensions;

6. Urges all donors to continue their support and those not contributing substantially to increase their support to the Programme, giving priority to funding the core budget before making specified contributions in order to ensure its sustainable financing;

7. Welcomes the support from non-traditional donors and urges other countries in a position to do so to contribute to the Programme;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999, a comprehensive report prepared by the Executive Director of the Programme in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, drawing upon the biennial report on HIV/AIDS to be issued in 1998, on the progress made in the response to HIV/AIDS and its impact on the countries affected.

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: PROCLAMATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS

Algeria*, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo*, Djibouti, Egypt*, El Salvador, Ethiopia*, Gabon, Ghana*, Guatemala*, Guinea*, Haiti*, Israel*, Jamaica, Kenya*, Morocco*, Mozambique, Namibia*, Nigeria*, Peru*, Senegal*, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland*, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania*, Uruguay*, Venezuela*, Zambia, Zimbabwe*: draft resolution

Proclamation of the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/173 of 22 December 1995 entitled "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education: towards a culture of peace", in which it expressed satisfaction with the transdisciplinary project adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Towards a culture of peace",

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 51/101 of 12 December 1996 on a culture of peace, in which it called for the promotion of a culture of peace based on the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Expressing its deep concern about the persistence and proliferation of violence and conflicts of a diverse nature in various parts of the world,

Emphasizing the linkage between peace and development and the need for a culture of peace that can lead, through education, science and communication, to the respect of all human rights and the promotion of democracy, tolerance, dialogue, reconciliation and solidarity, as well as to the international cooperation and economic development, and thus to the sustainable human development,

Aware of the need to mobilize public opinion at the national and international levels for the purpose of establishing and promoting a culture of peace and the central role that the United Nations system could play in this regard,

Bearing in mind the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, signed in Paris on 19 October 1995,

Convinced that an international year of culture of peace at the turn of the millennium would provide the opportunity to boost the efforts of the international community towards establishing and promoting an everlasting culture of peace,

1. Recommends that the General Assembly proclaim, during its fifty-second session, the year 2000 as International Year for the Culture of Peace;

2. Recommends also that the programme of the activities and the scope of the Year should focus on respect for cultural diversity and promotion of tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, dialogue and reconciliation, and should be based on activities at the national and international levels;

3. Recommends further that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should be designated as the focal point for the Year and should bear the responsibility for coordinating the inter-organizational

aspects of the programmes and activities of the other bodies within United Nations system and other organizations concerned and for mob resources to meet the budgetary requirements for the Year,

4. Requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Organization to submit to the Council, at its substantive session o a report on the state of preparations of the Year in orde. to enabl Council to make appropriate proposals to the General Assembly at it fifty-third session.

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS:
UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Russian Federation: draft decision

United Nations University

The Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 3081 (XXVIII) of 6 December 1973 and stressing the need to further rationalize the agenda of the substantive session of the Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996:

(a) Takes note of the report of the United Nations University;[1]

(b) Recommends that the General Assembly adopt a decision whereby, beginning in 1998, the report of the United Nations University would be considered directly by the Second Committee of the General Assembly in accordance with its programme of work.

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[1] E/1997/7.

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES:
ECONOMIC QUESTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Brazil and Chile: draft resolution

Consumer protection

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985, in which the Assembly adopted guidelines for consumer protection,

Recalling also its resolutions 1988/61 of 27 July 1988 and 1990/85 of 27 July 1990, as well as resolution 48/7 of 23 April 1992 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, [1] in which Governments were urged to implement the guidelines for consumer protection and the Secretary-General was requested to provide assistance to Governments to that end,

[1] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 11 (E/1992/31), chap. IV.

Recalling, in particular, its resolution 1995/53 of 28 July 1995, in which it requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to elaborate guidelines in the area of sustainable consumption patterns and to examine the possible extension of those guidelines into other areas,

Noting that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its third session, recommended that the guidelines for consumer protection be expanded to include guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns, [2]

Taking note of decision 4/13 adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its fourth session, [3] in which it requested Consumers International to assist the United Nations and its member Governments in the early revision of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, to include aspects of more sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Aware that the need for assistance in the area of consumer protection, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, remains great,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on consumer protection, [4] prepared pursuant to Council resolution 1995/53, containing information on the progress achieved within the United Nations system to promote the implementation of the guidelines for consumer protection, as well as on regional and international co-operation to promote consumer protection;

2. Recognizing the impact the guidelines have had in many countries in promoting just, equitable and sustainable economic and social development through their implementation by Governments;

3. Also recognizes the important role of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in promoting the implementation of the guidelines;

4. Welcomes the recent initiatives of the United Nations in partnership with international consumer organizations, such as Consumers International, donors and host Governments in convening regional conferences on consumer protection, such as those held in the Africa and the Asia and Pacific regions, for fostering the implementation of the guidelines and initiating the process

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[2] Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 45, sect. E.

[3] Ibid., 1996, Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[4] E/1997/61.

of revising the guidelines and extending them into the area of sustainable consumption patterns and other possible areas;

5. Urges Member States, other entities of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue efforts to implement effectively the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and to continue further work on the elaboration of guidelines to cover sustainable consumption patterns and other areas;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake this work through the convening of an interregional expert group meeting to be financed from extrabudgetary resources and, in collaboration with interested Governments, Consumers International and other concerned entities active in this field, taking into account the recommendations emanating from the recently held regional conferences on consumer protection, as well as the proposals of Consumers International on the early revision of the United Nations guidelines, to include aspects of more sustainable consumption patterns;

7. Recommends that the interregional expert group meeting elaborate specific guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998, through the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session in 1998;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to examine the extension of the guidelines into other areas;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1998 on the implementation of the present resolution.

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COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO FRESHWATER, INCLUDING CLEAN AND SAFE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

Draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Gerhard Walter Henze (Germany)

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on freshwater, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation (E/1997/70) and of the suggestions contained in it in order to enhance coordination and cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of water resources.

The Economic and Social Council notes with great concern that more than one fifth of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water and more than one half of humanity lacks adequate sanitation, and reiterates its recommendation [1] that the organizations of the United Nations system assign high priority to strengthening their activities and cooperation in these areas of endeavour.

The Economic and Social Council notes that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its fifth session, and the General Assembly, at its nineteenth special session, looked upon water resources as an issue requiring high priority. The Council welcomes the decision of the General Assembly at its

[1] See Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/46 of 27 July 1995.

special session that, building on existing principles and instruments, arrangements and programmes of action calls for a dialogue under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development, beginning at its sixth session, aimed at building a consensus on the necessary actions and, in particular, the means of implementation, and on tangible results in order to consider initiating a strategic approach for the implementation of all aspects of the sustainable use of freshwater for social and economic purposes, including, inter alia, safe drinking water and sanitation, water for irrigation, recycling and wastewater management, and the important role played by freshwater in natural ecosystems. The General Assembly further stated that this intergovernmental process would be fully fruitful only if there was a proven commitment by the international community for the provision of new and additional financial resources for the goals of the initiative. The Council stresses the importance of the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development concerning all matters related to the sustainable development of water resources.

The Economic and Social Council takes note of existing arrangements for cooperation and coordination through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Water Resources and other arrangements among specific organizations and recommends that they take further steps towards streamlining their programme and activities. The Council urges the ACC Subcommittee to analyse in detail the activities that are currently being carried out by the organizations of the system and the interrelationship between them and to prepare a report by the end of 1997. The report would be a useful input into the preparatory process leading up to the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Council further recommends that the regional commissions take measures to enhance their participation at the sessions of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources in order to provide the necessary regional perspectives to the work of the Subcommittee.

The Economic and Social Council stresses the seriousness of the capacity-building problem in developing countries and urges the organizations of the United Nations system to assign high priority to programmes and activities geared to the provision of support in this respect. It takes note of the conclusion of the comprehensive assessment of the freshwater resources of the world, submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session (E/CN.17/1997/9), to the effect that the capability of providing

accurate water quantity and quality data is sorely lacking in the majority of countries and that, despite the existence of important programmes, international support efforts concerning information management remains fragmented and incomplete. The Council welcomes the recommendation by the General Assembly, at its nineteenth special session, to strengthen the capacity of Governments and international institutions to collect and manage information, including scientific, social and environmental data, in order to facilitate the integrated assessment and management of water resources and to foster regional and international cooperation for information dissemination and exchange through cooperative approaches among United Nations institutions, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and centres of environmental excellence. In this regard, technical assistance to developing countries will continue to be important. The Council also considers that, owing to the lack of data in both developed and developing countries, there is a need for an update and reassessment of the water resources of the world. Given the seriousness of the situation concerning the effect of the disposal of toxic substances, including arsenic contamination of drinking water supplies, and of persistent organic pollutants upon water resources, the Council recommends that close attention be given to these issues. The work of the organizations of the United Nations system must be carried out in compliance with chapter 18 of Agenda 21 [1] and other relevant chapters contained in that document.

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[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (UN publication E.93.I.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
SUBSIDIARY BODIES: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador*, El Salvador, Haiti*, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru*, Portugal*, Spain, United States of America, Uruguay* and Venezuela*: draft resolution

First regional meeting convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to evaluate the World Summit for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling paragraph 95 (h) of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 1/ in which the Summit recommended that regional commissions, in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, convene, on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to review progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit, exchange views on their respective experiences and adopt the appropriate measures,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.8).

1. Welcomes the convening by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the first regional meeting to evaluate the World Summit for Social Development, which was held at São Paolo from 6 to 9 April 1997, the first of its kind, with the participation of high-level representatives of Latin American and Caribbean countries;

2. Expresses its appreciation for the final document of the meeting, known as the "São Paolo Consensus", in which the signatories undertook, inter alia, commitments related to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

3. Invites other regions to convene their respective evaluation meetings on the Summit.

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Draft decision submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh) as a result of informal consultations

INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS

International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994 and 50/224 of 20 December 1995 on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and 51/176 of 16 December 1996, in which the Assembly reiterated that the Commission on Population and Development had the primary responsibility for monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, takes note of decision 97/14 adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on 16 May 1997, recommends to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session that it decide on the process and modalities, including the consideration of convening a special session of the Assembly in 1999, to review and appraise the

implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the context of item 99 (c) of the preliminary list entitled "Population and development", and further recommends that the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly under that item contain consolidated recommendations from the Department for Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Population Fund, the regional commissions and other relevant United Nations entities on activities to be undertaken in preparation for the review.

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Brazil: draft resolution

Renewal of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1979/44 of 11 May 1979, 1982/67 of 27 October 1982 and 1991/56 of 26 July 1991 and resolution 1988/1 adopted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its fourteenth session, [1] as well as paragraph 115 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session, [2]

[1] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 7 (E/1988/17), chap. I, sect. C.

[2] Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ninth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/378/Rev.1), part one, sect. A.

Having considered the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting on its fourteenth session, [1]

Acting upon the recommendations of the Group at its fourteenth session concerning its future work,

Decides to renew the existing mandate of the Group, contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/67, and to extend its duration for five years.

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[1] TD/B/ITNC/7.

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
SUBSIDIARY BODIES: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth session

Administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council (see E/1997/L.23 and Add.2)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

A. Requests contained in the draft decisions

1. At its sixteenth session, held at Geneva from 28 April to 16 May 1997, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended the adoption of the following three decisions by the Economic and Social Council:

(a) By draft decision I, the Economic and Social Council, concerned that there is currently a backlog of reports awaiting consideration by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which will take up to three years to clear on the basis of existing arrangements, would approve, on an exceptional basis, the holding of one additional three-week session of the Committee in the course of 1998, as well as a pre-sessional working group of one week's duration;

(b) By draft decision II, the Council, noting that the effectiveness and profile of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights could be further enhanced by holding occasional sessions in New York, would approve the holding of the Committee's nineteenth session, in late 1998, in New York;

(c) By draft decision III, the Council, recalling that no action has yet been taken by the General Assembly with regard to its decisions 1993/297 and 1995/302 A and noting that honoraria are already being paid to members of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, would call upon the General Assembly to take appropriate action to remedy the situation by approving the payment of an honorarium, as from 1997, to the members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

2. By its decision IV, adopted at the same session, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, recalling its decision of May 1997 to initiate the drafting of a range of General Comments for consideration and adoption by the Committee over the next two years or so, and having concluded that the most efficient manner of proceeding is to entrust a working group with responsibility for undertaking a careful initial review and revision of drafts to be prepared by individual members, decided to schedule, on an exceptional basis from within existing resources, a one-week ad hoc working group meeting of five members specifically designated for that purpose, immediately before its eighteenth session, in April 1998.

B. Relationship of requests to the programme of work

3. The activities referred to above fall under subprogramme 2 (Supporting human rights bodies and organs) of programme 19 (Human rights) of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1) and section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/6 (Sect. 22)).

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented and additional requirements at full cost

Draft decision I. Extraordinary additional session of the Committee and pre-sessional working group in 1998

4. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights normally holds two three-week sessions per year in April/May and November/December, respectively. A pre-sessional working group meets for one week immediately after the conclusion of each session. Travel and subsistence costs are paid

to the 18 members of the Committee attending the annual sessions and to an average of 5 members participating in the pre-sessional working groups.

5. Provisions have been included under sections 22 (Human rights) and 27 E (Conference services/Geneva) of the 1998-1999 proposed programme budget for two sessions and two pre-sessional working groups annually.

6. The most appropriate time to hold the extraordinary additional session at Geneva would be during the period between the eighteenth (April/May) and nineteenth (November/December) sessions of the Committee, with the additional pre-sessional working group meeting normally taking place immediately following the conclusion of the Committee's eighteenth session. However, for the reasons mentioned in paragraphs 9-11 below, it is proposed that the additional session of the Committee be convened during the period scheduled for the nineteenth session (November/December 1998) and that the nineteenth session be advanced to August 1998. Under this arrangement, the proposed pre-sessional working group meeting for the additional session would be held immediately following the conclusion of the Committee's nineteenth session.

7. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt draft decision I and agree that the additional session should be held during the period scheduled for the nineteenth session, no additional requirements would be entailed by the decision, since provisions for the nineteenth session have already been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Draft decision II. Holding of the nineteenth session of the Committee in New York in late 1998

8. Should the Council adopt draft decision II, additional provisions would be required for travel and per diem costs of the 18 members of the Committee (US$ 160,000), and per diem costs for an average of 5 members of the Committee participating in the pre-sessional working group meeting (US$ 10,000). In addition, travel and per diem costs amounting to US$ 39,000 would be required for six Geneva-based staff of the United Nations High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights travelling to New York to service the nineteenth session.

9. As regards the conference-servicing requirements in New York, it should be noted that the proposed three-week session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in New York from 16 November to 4 December 1998 plus a one-week pre-session meeting of its working group falls during the peak period of the regular session of the General Assembly, when all

conference-servicing resources are committed to meet the requirements of the Assembly and its Main Committees and other related meetings of regional groups. In order that the work of the Assembly is not adversely affected by meetings and servicing requirements of other bodies, all conference facilities are, in practice and as a general rule, strictly limited for the use of the Assembly and its Main Committees during its regular annual sessions. In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, even subsidiary bodies of the Assembly itself are not allowed to meet at Headquarters except when specifically authorized by the Assembly to do so.

10. For these reasons, it will not be possible to accommodate the nineteenth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in New York from 16 November to 4 December 1998.

11. Based on the projected calendar of conferences for 1998, at this stage it is anticipated that the nineteenth session of the Committee could be accommodated in New York during the month of August 1998. Accordingly, and after consultations with the Chairman of the Committee, it is proposed that the nineteenth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights be convened during August 1998 in New York. It would immediately be followed by the pre-sessional working group in preparation for the Committee's additional (November/December 1998) session. The pre-sessional working group for the nineteenth session would be held in Geneva in May 1998, immediately following the conclusion of the Committee's eighteenth session.

12. The conference-servicing requirements for the session and the meeting of the working group would amount to US$ 925,000, at full cost. A breakdown of the costs for travel, per diem and conference services is provided in the annex to the present document.

13. It will be recalled that by its decision 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Committee should meet with the venue alternating between Geneva and New York. However, the General Assembly, in its resolution 40/252 of 18 December 1985, invited the Council to reconsider its decision to allow the Committee to meet in New York. Consequently, by its decision 1986/102 of 7 February 1986, the Council decided that sessions of the Committee should be held at Geneva. Therefore, should the Council endorse draft decision II, the holding of the nineteenth session of the Committee in New York would imply an exception to Council decision 1986/102.

Draft decision III. Payment of honoraria to the members of the Commi

14. The current rates of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, as approved by the General A in its resolution 35/218 of 17 December 1980, are as follows: US$ 5, per annum for Chairmen (Presidents) and US$ 3,000 per annum for other

15. The proposed payment of honoraria to the 18 members of the Comm Economic, Social and Cultural Rights would amount to US$ 56,000 per a

16. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General concerning the comprehensive study of honoraria payable to members of organs and sub organs of the United Nations (A/C.5/47/45), the basic principle enunc the General Assembly in resolution 2489 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968 a number of subsequent resolutions was that neither a fee nor any other remuneration in addition to subsistence allowance at the standard rat normally be paid to members of organs or subsidiary organs unless expr decided upon by the General Assembly. It will be recalled in this co that the Committee on Economic and Cultural Rights has previously rec on several occasions, the payment of honoraria to its members and tha recommendation was reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/47/45). By its decision 47/460 B of 6 May 1993, the General A deferred to its forty-eighth session the review of the whole question honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations and no decision has been made since on this issue. In connection, it should be noted that should the Economic and Social Co decide to approve draft decision III, the payment of honoraria to the of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights could only b considered for implementation from 1998 onwards, after the General As had considered, at its fifty-second session, the revised estimates res from resolutions and decisions of the Council and decided to extend th payment of honoraria to the members of the Committee on Economic, Soci Cultural Rights. Thus, the adoption of draft decision III would not itself give rise to additional financial implications. Such implicati could only arise from a decision of the General Assembly to accept the recommendation of the Council.

Decision IV. Ad hoc working group

17. The attention of the Council is drawn to decision IV adopted by the Committee at its sixteenth session, regarding the proposed meeting of an ad hoc working group to be convened, within existing resources, at Geneva immediately before the Committee's eighteenth session in April 1998.

18. It will be recalled that, in accordance with rule 24, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the commissions and committees of the Council shall not create either standing or ad hoc inter-sessional subsidiary bodies without prior approval of the Council. The Economic and Social Council is therefore requested to consider decision IV of the Committee and take action thereon.

19. As regards the Committee's request that the meeting of the ad hoc working group be convened within existing resources, it should be recalled that the General Assembly, in part VI of its resolution 45/248 B:

(a) Reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

(b) Reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(c) Expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters;

(d) Invited the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

20. Should the Council endorse decision IV of the Committee, the holding of the ad hoc working group would require an additional US$ 10,000 in respect of per diem payable to the five members participating in the working group. No additional travel costs would be incurred as all five members would be staying in Geneva to attend the eighteenth session of the Committee.

21. The ad hoc working group would be meeting for five working days without interpretation. The conference-servicing requirements, which are estimated on a full cost basis at US$ 27,500, would be limited to post-session documentation in four languages.

* * *

22. Should the Council adopt draft decisions I and II and approve decision IV of the Committee, the dates of the meetings of the Committee and its pre-sessional working group in 1998 would be as follows:

(a) 20-24 April (Geneva): ad hoc working group;

(b) 27 April-15 May (Geneva): eighteenth session of the Committee;

(c) 18-22 May (Geneva): pre-sessional working group for the nineteenth session;

(d) Three weeks in August (New York): nineteenth session of the Committee;

(e) One week in August (New York): pre-sessional working group for the additional (twentieth) session;

(f) 16 November-4 December (Geneva): additional (twentieth) session of the Committee;

(g) 7-11 December (Geneva): pre-sessional working group for the twenty-first session.

C. Modifications to the proposed programme of work

23. The programme of work included under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 would have to be modified, as follows:

Subprogramme 2. Supporting human rights bodies and organs

Activities (a). Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

Substantive and technical servicing of meetings:

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: Additional 30 plenary meetings of the Committee and 20 meetings of its working group.

D. Potential for absorption

24. With regard to draft decision II and decision IV of the Committee, no provisions have been included under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 to cover the substantive requirements of US$ 219,000 relating to (a) the holding of an additional session of the Committee and its pre-sessional working group in 1998 in New York (US$ 209,000) and (b) the holding of the ad hoc working group for one week in April 1998 (US$ 10,000). At this stage, it is not anticipated that these requirements could be absorbed within the provisions proposed by the Secretary-General under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

25. As regards draft decision III, it may be noted that while no provisions have been included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, no immediate requirements would arise from adoption of the decision as an obligation to make honorarium payments could only be established by subsequent decision of the General Assembly.

26. These additional requirements would be reported to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session and dealt with in accordance with the procedure for the use and operation of the contingency fund established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, which is described in section E below.

27. The conference-servicing costs related to the holding of the ad hoc working group in 1998 and the nineteenth session of the Committee and the meeting of its pre-sessional working group in New York are estimated at US$ 27,500 and US$ 925,300, at full cost, respectively. These estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity included under section 27 E (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The extent to which the Organization's permanent conference-servicing capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998-1999. Provision has, however, been made under section 27 E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparations but also for meetings which might be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years.

E. Contingency fund

28. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to

a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

29. No activities could be identified, at this stage, for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 in order to accommodate the additional requirements of US$ 219,000 referred to in paragraph 24 above.

F. Summary

30. Should the Economic and Social Council decide to adopt draft decision I and endorse decision IV of the Committee, additional requirements of US$ 219,000 would be required over and above the resources proposed under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Annex

COSTS ENTAILED BY DRAFT DECISION II: HOLDING OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE IN NEW YORK

I. Section 22. Human rights

	1998-1999 (US dollars)
Travel and per diem of all 18 members attending the proposed annual session of the Committee	160 000
Per diem of five members attending the meeting of the pre-sessional working group	10 000
Travel of six staff members of the United Nations High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights to New York to service the annual session	39 000
Total I	**209 000**

II. Section 27 E. Conference services

	1998-1999 (US dollars)
Pre-sessional Working Group (one week in 1998, New York)	
Meeting services (E,F,R,S) 10 meetings	37 600
Pre-session documentation (E,F,R,S) 600 pages, 18 documents	340 600
Post-session documentation (E,F,R,S) 40 pages, 6 documents	23 400
Other requirements	5 900
	407 500

	1998-1999 (US dollars)
Annual session of the Committee (three weeks in 1998, New York)	
Meeting services (A,E,F,R,S) 30 meetings	147 900
Pre-session documentation (A,E,F,R,S) 50 pages, 5 documents	37 900
In-session documentation (A,E,F,R,S) 90 pages, 10 documents	67 000
Post-session documentation (A,E,F,R,S) 30 pages, 6 documents	23 100
Summary records (E,F,S)	224 300
Other requirements	17 600
	517 800
Total II	**925 300**

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF
SUBSIDIARY BODIES: SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Germany: draft decision

Participation of non-governmental organizations accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session, non-governmental organizations accredited to the World Summit for Social Development in the work of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-sixth session, and non-governmental organizations accredited to the International Conference on Population and Development in the work of the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-first session

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) As an interim measure and in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 53 of its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996:

(i) To invite those non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women or the World Summit for Social Development to attend the forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women or the thirty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development, provided that they have started the process of applying for consultative status in accordance with Council decision 1996/315 of 14 November 1996;

(ii) Also to invite non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the International Conference on Population and Development to attend the thirty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development, provided that they have applied for consultative status;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the non-governmental organizations accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the World Summit for Social Development or the International Conference on Population and Development to the provisions of the present decision and to the process established under Council resolution 1996/31.

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COORDINATION, PROGRAMME AND OTHER QUESTIONS: JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS/ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh), as a result of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1997/L.36

Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1994/24 of 26 July 1994, 1995/2 of 3 July 1995 and 1996/47 of 26 July 1996,

Noting with concern the continuing spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), particularly HIV/AIDS-associated deaths in 1996, which represent about 25 per cent of all HIV-related mortality since the beginning of the epidemic, the severe impact on development prospects and the worsening impact on individuals, households and society,

Recognizing that women and men are affected differently and that, in 1996, nearly half of the new infections occurred in women,

Recognizing further that special efforts are needed to help developing countries combat AIDS,

Noting also with concern the increasingly dramatic situation of millions of children worldwide who are living under threat of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and welcoming the theme of the 1997 World AIDS Campaign on Children Living in a World with AIDS,

Noting with appreciation the progress achieved in the implementation of the activities of the Joint and Co-Sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) by its co-sponsoring organizations during the first full year of operations of the Programme, and acknowledging the continued efforts made by Governments in response to HIV/AIDS at the national level as well as the financial support provided by countries for these efforts,

Noting that the Programme, which was established to provide a coordinated United Nations response to the epidemic, constitutes an important example of effective system-wide coordination in the context of United Nations reform efforts,

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the Programme, [1] which discusses the HIV/AIDS activities of the organizations of the United Nations system, and welcoming the increased involvement of the Secretary-General in the response to HIV/AIDS and his support to the Programme,

1. Urges the co-sponsors of the Joint and Co-Sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen their commitment to the response to the epidemic by integrating HIV/AIDS components throughout their operational activities at global, regional and country levels and in their follow-up activities to global conferences;

2. Requests co-sponsoring organizations and the Programme to disseminate clear guidance to country-level staff on the role and functions of the United Nations theme groups on HIV/AIDS and their respective roles in providing technical assistance, and to report back to their respective governing bodies and to the Programme Coordinating Board on measures undertaken in this respect;

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[1] E/1997/63.

3. Requests the United Nations funds and programmes and invites specialized agencies, in consultation with the host countries, to ensure effective coordination of HIV/AIDS-related activities in the context of t resident coordinator system;

4. ges the co-sponsoring organizations to share costs related administrative support for the effective functioning of theme groups with the framework of the United Nations resident coordinator system;

5. Appeals to Governments and the co-sponsors, and encourages o interested actors, to broaden their programme activities in the area of HIV/AIDS in order to cover all aspects of the epidemic, in particular addressing its social and economic dimensions, especially in developing countries; in this context, a gender-based approach is emphasized;

6. Urges all donors to continue their support and those not contributing substantially to increase their support to the Programme, gi priority to funding the core budget in order to ensure sustainable financ of the Programme;

7. Welcomes the support of other countries and urges all those i position to do so to contribute to the Programme;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Economic an Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999, a comprehensive repor prepared by the Executive Director of the Programme in collaboration with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, drawing upon t biennial report on HIV/AIDS to be issued in 1998, on the progress made i response to HIV/AIDS and its impact on the countries affected.

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES:
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

United States of America: draft amendments to draft decision 38, entitled "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", contained in chapter I of the report of the Commission on Human Rights

1. In the first unlettered paragraph, replace the words "endorses the Commission's decision" by the word "decides" and insert the words "or special session of the General Assembly" after the words "world conference".

2. In the second unlettered paragraph, replace the words "also endorses the Commission's recommendations" by the words "further recommends".

3. Following the second unlettered paragraph, in subparagraphs (a)-(d) and (f), insert the words "or special session of the General Assembly" after the words "world conference" wherever they occur.

4. Following the second unlettered paragraph, in subparagraph (e) insert the words "or the special session" after the words "the conference".

5. In the last paragraph, insert the words "or special session of the General Assembly" after the words "world conference".

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of)*, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic* and United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General 1/ and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 2/

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ A/52/185.

2/ E/1997/81.

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, [1]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, resolutions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/37 of 26 July 1996,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

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[1] E/1997/SR.__.

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating thereto,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea level rise, and recalling other relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/141 of 13 December 1996 on cooperation and coordination of the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

1. Takes note of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council on his consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. Recommends that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. Reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. Reaffirms also that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. Expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. Requests the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. Recommends that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

10. Also recommends that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

11. Welcomes the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

12. Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

13. Requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system;

14. Recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. Draws the attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council;

16. Requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1998;

18. Decides to keep these questions under continuous review.

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES: ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh), as a result of informal consultations

Establishment of an ad hoc open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 1995/226, approving the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental panel on forests to pursue consensus and formulate coordinated proposals for action towards the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests,

Recognizing that the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests is a crucial factor in economic and social development, in environmental protection and in the Planet's life-support system,

Taking into account the decision taken by the General Assembly, at its nineteenth special session, held from 23 to 28 June 1997, to continue the intergovernmental policy dialogue on forests through the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development to work in an open, transparent and participatory manner, with a focused and time-limited mandate, charged with, inter alia, (a) promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals

for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests; (b) reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests; and (c) considering matters left pending with regard to the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, in particular trade and environment in relation to forest products and services, transfer of technology and the need for financial resources,

Also taking into account the decision of the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session that (a) the Forum should identify the possible elements of and work towards consensus on international arrangements and mechanisms, for example, a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, and would report on its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1999; (b) based on that report and depending on the decision of the Commission at its eighth session, the Forum would engage in further action on establishing an intergovernmental negotiation process on new arrangements and mechanisms or a legally binding instrument on all types of forests; (c) the Forum should convene as soon as possible to further elaborate its terms of reference and decide on organizational matters; and (d) the Forum should be serviced by a small secretariat within the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, supported by voluntary extrabudgetary contributions from Governments and international organizations,

1. Decides to establish, under the aegis of the Commission on Sustainable Development, an ad hoc, open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests as envisaged above;

2. Decides also that the Forum should hold its first organizational session in New York, from 1 to 3 October 1997 so that the preparations for substantive sessions can start without delay;

3. Decides further that the Forum should hold three substantive sessions and submit its report to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session in 2000;

4. Recommends that the Forum at its first session should schedule its work programme and decide on the modalities of its work, including the election and designation of officers as well as the duration of its substantive sessions, which could be up to two weeks each, and recognizing

the wide range of issues to be addressed, decided that the Forum may consider dividing its work between in-session working groups, on the understanding that no more than two working groups would meet simultaneously;

5. Decides that the Forum should be serviced by a small secretariat within the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, supported by voluntary extrabudgetary contributions from Governments and international organizations, that the operation of the Forum will require funding to support activities as well as meetings and participation by representatives of developing countries and major groups from developing countries, and that the participation of major groups should be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission; in this regard, the following sources of funding should be considered: (a) voluntary extrabudgetary contributions from Governments and international organizations to support the work of the Forum; (b) secondments from international organizations; and (c) in-kind contributions from countries and international organizations, including the hosting of meetings;

6. Encourages interested Governments and organizations to make early voluntary contributions to ensure that the work of the Forum starts quickly;

7. Recommends that support from the United Nations system should, as far as possible, be derived from the reallocation of resources within existing budgets of United Nations bodies in order to respond to high-priority activities.

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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES: ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury (Bangladesh), as a result of informal consultations

Programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002 and future methods of work of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council,

1. Approves the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002, as recommended by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session and annexed to the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

2. Invites the Commission to draw up the provisional agendas of its future sessions in accordance with that programme of work with no prejudice to rules 5 to 9 of the rules of procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council;

3. Approves the following provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Commission:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Sectoral theme: Strategic approaches to freshwater management

4. Cross-sectoral theme: Transfer of technology/capacity-building/education/science/awareness raising

5. Economic sector/major group: Industry

6. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (those chapters of the Programme of Action which were not covered in the in-depth review carried out by the fourth session of the Commission)

7. Other matters

8. Provisional agenda of the seventh session

9. Adoption of the report.

4. Invites the Commission to adjust its future methods of work in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 132 and 133 of the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

5. Decides that in the period 1998-2002 the Commission shall continue the practice of establishing, subject to the approval by the Council, up to two ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working groups in a given year with a view to assisting the Commission in the preparations for its forthcoming regular sessions;

6. Decides also that the issues to be addressed by such inter-sessional working groups should be, as a rule, decided by the Commission in the context of consideration of the provisional agendas of its forthcoming sessions and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 133 (f) of the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

7. Decides further that, on an exceptional basis, the provisional agenda of 1998 meetings of the ad hoc inter-sessional working group or groups of the Commission will be recommended by the Bureau of the Commission in consultation with Member States;

8. Decides on the following future arrangements for the election of the bureau of the Commission in order to implement the provisions of paragraph 136 of the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21:

(a) The Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, will hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new chairman and other members of the bureau in accordance with rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Council;

(b) In this context, the provisions of paragraph (d) of its decision 1993/207 of 12 February 1993 would apply only to the substantive part of the Commission's sessions;

(c) The terms of office of the members of the Commission shall begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the regular session held after 1 January, following their election by the Council (at its resumed organizational session of the previous year) to the membership of the Commission, and shall end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January following the election of the States that are to succeed them as members of the Commission (unless they are re-elected);

(d) The Council will decide on specific modalities of the transitional pe:iod from the current arrangements to those outlined above at its resumed substantive session of 1997.